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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6392**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1163

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 4, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Vaccines Containing Mercury.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Bell

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
☒ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires that before a person administers a vaccine that contains more than a trace amount of mercury, the person must inform the person who will be vaccinated that there are alternatives to mercury-preserved vaccines. The bill allows the State Department of Health to suspend this requirement during a public health emergency or an epidemic. The bill provides that a health care practitioner may be subject to disciplinary sanctions for failure to comply with these requirements.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill requires that before administering a vaccine that contains more than a trace amount of mercury, the person administering the vaccine must inform the person to be vaccinated that alternatives to mercury-preserved vaccines exist. The bill does not specify if the person is to be informed verbally or in writing.

The bill provides that practitioners who fail to comply with the administration provisions or notification provisions of the bill are subject to disciplinary sanctions after a hearing by the appropriate board. The provisions of the bill could increase the number of hearings required of the licensing boards of practitioners that may administer vaccines. Sanctions a board may impose include: assessment of a fine not to exceed \$1,000; placing a practitioner on probationary status; issuing a letter of reprimand; censuring a practitioner; suspending a license; or permanently revoking a license.

**Background Information:** Thimerosal is an ethylmercury compound that has been used as a preservative in multi-dose vials of vaccine since the 1930s. Preservatives are not required for vaccines in single dose vials.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that all routinely recommended licensed pediatric vaccines that are manufactured for the U.S. market, with the exception of influenza vaccine, contain no thimerosal or only trace amounts. Influenza vaccine and tetanus toxoid for adults are the only vaccines available for purchase through the Vaccines for Children Program that contain thimerosal. The availability and use of vaccines containing thimerosal outside the Vaccines for Children Program that may be purchased by local health departments is not known. Influenza vaccine costs vary depending on the product and the packaging. Multi-dose vials containing thimerosal as a preservative are less expensive than individual dose syringes and the nasal spray influenza vaccines that do not contain thimerosal.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Local health departments immunize approximately 27% of Indiana's children against childhood diseases. The local health departments also provide influenza immunizations to children and adults.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State Department of Health, Health Professions Bureau.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local departments of health.

**Information Sources:** CDC, "Frequently Asked Questions about Thimerosal" updated December 6, 2006, at [http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/iso/concerns/thimerosal\\_faqs\\_thimerosal.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/iso/concerns/thimerosal_faqs_thimerosal.htm); National Immunization Program, Vaccines for Children, CDC Vaccine Price List at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/cdc-vac-price-list.htm>.

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